

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SPECIES OF *MARKEA* FROM COLOMBIA.¹

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The following new species of *Markea* (Solanaceae) is an interesting addition to a genus of plants still rather insufficiently known. It was collected by the University of California Botanical Garden third expedition to the Andes. I am indebted to Dr. T. H. Goodspeed for the privilege of studying the material.

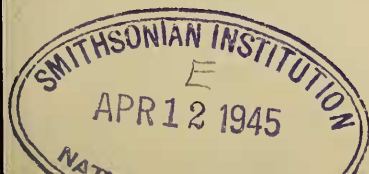
Markea dimorpha Morton, sp. nov.

Liana, caulibus elongatis, vix ramosis, juventute leproso-pubescentibus, angulatis; folia dimorpha, pleraque alterna, distantia, lamina ovali, abrupte acuminata, basi obtusa vel rotundata, integra, utrinque glabra, altera apice ramulorum brevium fasciculata, lamina oblanceolata, gradatim acuminata, basi anguste cuneata; rhachis elongata, apice florifera, valde nodosa, pedicellis racemosis, apice incrassatis, leproso-pubescentibus; calycis lobi liberi, lanceolati, acuti, incurvi, crassi, leproso-pubescentes; corolla aurantiaca, tubo medio abrupte ampliato, externe dense pubescente, fauce non contracto, limbo subregulari, lobis parvis, imbricatis, integris; filamenta glabra; ovarium glabrum; bacca aurantiaca, calycem accrescentem aequans.

Liana; stems elongate, straight, up to 7.5 mm. in diameter, sparingly branched, scurfy-pubescent when young, glabrescent, angulate, the bark exfoliating; leaves dimorphic, on some branches alternate, distant, short-petiolate (4-8 mm.), the blades oval, 5-11 cm. long, 3.3-5.3 cm. broad, abruptly short-acuminate, obtuse to rounded at base, entire, chartaceous, green and glabrous on both sides, the primary veins 4-6 pairs; leaves on other branches fasciculate at the apex of short lateral branchlets 0.5-2 cm. long, the blades oblanceolate, 8-14 cm. long, 2.5-4.5 cm. broad, gradually acuminate, narrowly cuneate at base; rhachis 1-8 cm. long, solitary, sometimes once or twice furcate, 4-5 mm. thick, ebracteate, conspicuously nodose from the scars of fallen pedicels, floriferous at apex only; pedicels racemose, 10-12 mm. long, thick, enlarged near apex, scurfy-pubescent, much thickened in fruit; calyx lobes 5, valvate, free to base, spreading,

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lanceolate, equal, 6 mm. long, 2.2 mm. broad at base, acute, strongly incurved at apex, thick, scurfy-pubescent on both sides, venose, the veins numerous, longitudinal; corolla orange, erect in calyx, 15 mm. long, the tube 12 mm. long, 2 mm. broad at base, abruptly amplified at middle, becoming 6-7 mm. broad, densely short-pubescent externally, glabrous within, not contracted in throat, the limb subregular, 10-12 mm. broad, the lobes imbricate in aestivation, spreading, ovate-deltoid to suborbicular, about 3 mm. long, undulate, entire; fertile stamens 5, the filaments inserted about 3.5 mm. above base of corolla tube, free, about 3 mm. long, glabrous; anthers oblong, 4 mm. long, 1.5 mm. broad, erect, acutish, introrse, the cells fully dehiscent longitudinally, confluent at apex; disk hypogynous, pentagonal, fleshy; ovary low and flat, glabrous, 2-celled; placentae axile, many-ovuled; style glabrous, 12 mm. long; stigma capitate; fruiting calyx accrescent, persistent, the lobes becoming 11 mm. long and 4.5 mm. broad; fruit an orange, fleshy, glabrous berry 10-12 mm. long, equaling or slightly surpassing the calyx.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, No. 1,833,445, collected north of Dabeiba, along road to Turbo, Department of Antioquia, Colombia, at 300 to 350 meters elevation, February 25 to March 1, 1942, by R. D. Metcalf and J. Cuatrecasas (No. 30198).

There is no described species with which *M. dimorpha* need be compared. It belongs to the group of species known as *Merinthopodium* Donn. Smith, which Mr. Standley and I reduced to *Markea* in the Flora of Costa Rica. This group is distinguished primarily by the elongate, thickened and nodose, probably perennial rhachis. In most species this rhachis is borne at the end of an elongate peduncle, which is wholly lacking in the present species. The flowers are the smallest of any species of *Markea*.

The present plant is noteworthy for its dimorphic leaves. In some specimens the leaves are alternate and distant, the blades being oval, abruptly acuminate at apex, and usually rounded at base. In others they are fascicled at the ends of short, spurlike branchlets, and are oblanceolate, gradually acuminate at apex, and narrowly cuneate at base. Both kinds of leaves are not found on the same twigs. I am unable to say whether or not they occur on the same plant. From the leaves alone one would hardly hesitate to say that two species were involved, but both kinds of twigs bear inflorescences which are indistinguishable. I have no doubt but that these forms are variants of a single species.